

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/827,477

Examiner

Eric Hug

Applicant(s)

SICLEY, DAVID L.

Art Unit

1731

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on October 10, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2,3 and 5-10.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Response to Amendment

The following is in response to the amendment filed on October 10, 2006.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 3, and 5-10 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 2, 3, 6, and 7 are allowed, because the prior art does not disclose or suggest a cylindrical rotating thickening device having the claimed combination and arrangement of axial core, shell, and perforated deck segments, wherein the device is further provided with longitudinally spaced apart grooves in the outer surface of the shell and bars attached to the leading edges of the deck segments, with the bars received by the grooves and secured to the shell.

Claim 5 is allowed, because the prior art does not disclose or suggest a cylindrical rotating thickening device having the claimed combination and arrangement of axial core, shell, and perforated deck segments, wherein the leading edge of each deck segment has a lip and the trailing edge of each deck segment is clamped between an adjacent leading edge lip and the shell.

Claims 8-10 are allowed, because the prior art does not disclose or suggest a cylindrical rotating thickening device having the claimed combination and arrangement of axial core, support ribs, shell, and perforated deck segments, wherein the device is further provided with longitudinally spaced apart grooves in the outer surface of the shell and bars attached to the

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leading edges of the deck segments and integral therewith, with the bars received by the grooves and secured to the shell.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed October 10, 2006 have been fully considered. The arguments and amendments to the claims have overcome the rejection set forth previously under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over known prior art in view of Luthi (US 3,837,499). It is recognized regarding claim 5 that Luthi nor other prior art disclose the feature of clamping the trailing edge of a deck segment between the leading edge lip of an adjacent deck segment and the shell.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

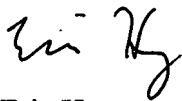
Putnam (US 3,306,457) discloses a drum filter with a plurality of filter elements on the surface of the drum, each element having an axial dimension and a circumferential dimension.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Hug whose telephone number is 571 272-1192.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571 272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Eric Hug